

# Wraparound Milwaukee

## **I. Purpose**

Wraparound Milwaukee is the system of care in Milwaukee County serving children/adolescents with serious emotional and mental health needs (SED) and their families across child servicing systems including mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice and special education. Wraparound Milwaukee and Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) have a long standing partnership and have had a contract in place since 1998.

Wraparound Milwaukee is also a publicly operated special managed care entity (HMO) operated under a 1915(a) federal CMS waiver and contracts between Milwaukee County and the Wisconsin Department of Health-Medicaid program.

Part of the County's Behavioral Health Division, Wraparound Milwaukee operates with a \$48 million budget with \$28 million of its funding coming through Medicaid. Child Welfare pays Wraparound Milwaukee \$131.00 per day for youth they approve to come into the program.

The purpose of Wraparound Milwaukee is primarily to keep children in their home and keep families together by effectively treating youth with SED in the community, avoiding the need for institutional placement whenever possible or to reducing the length of such placements.

## **II. Eligibility**

Children must meet the state definition of severe emotional disturbance including being involved in at least two child serving systems and at risk of placement in a residential care center for youth (RCCCY), psychiatric inpatient facility, or juvenile correctional facility.

Children are referred to Wraparound Milwaukee by the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) based on the funding and recommendation of the Central Staffing Committee. They are subsequently assessed by Wraparound Milwaukee as to SED eligibility and then court ordered into Wraparound Milwaukee.

## **III. Families Served/Cost Per Child**

- Previous twelve (12) months there were 1,536 children/families served of which 357 were from the child welfare system
- Currently there are 234 enrolled youth from the child welfare system

- Average length of service for Children In Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) youth is 21.7 months
- Average cost per child per month is \$4,891 Wraparound Milwaukee as the single payer pays for any out-of-home care, in-patient hospitalization, all mental health and AODA services as well as supportive services, i.e.: mentors, tutors, parent aides, etc. Wraparound Milwaukee does not cover physical health care costs.

#### **IV. Staff Composition**

- Wraparound contracts with eight community agencies for care coordination with ratio of 1:8 care coordinator to families
- Wraparound Milwaukee Care Coordinators work in collaboration with BMCW Case Managers utilizing MOU (memos of understanding) with defined roles, conflict resolution procedures, etc.
- Children/Families enrolled in Wraparound Milwaukee have access to a Provider Network of two-hundred (200) agencies and seventy (70) services (Wraparound also operates behavioral network for Children’s Health Plan)

#### **V. Funding**

Pooled Funding with funds contributed by State Department of Children/Family Services (DCFS), Milwaukee County Delinquency and Court Services, and Wisconsin Medicaid program. Capitation and crisis payments to Wraparound Milwaukee from Medicaid account for 62% of funding pool with 48% coming from Delinquency and Court Services & Child Welfare.

#### **VI. Outcomes/Accomplishments**

- Significant clinical improvement of children/adolescents based on Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL (Achenbach)) and other clinical measures
- Reduction in RCCCY placements in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice from initiation of program (375 average daily placements to 90 – about 40 of those 90 would be Child Welfare)
- Average monthly cost in Wraparound Milwaukee is \$4,891 for a CHIPS youth versus \$9,459 monthly for a residential care center for youth (RCCCY) placement
- Wraparound youth attended school 87% of the time
- Average overall score for caregiver/family satisfaction with Wraparound Milwaukee services, annually was 4.51 (5 point scale)

#### **VII. Other Programs Being Utilized by BMCW**

- REACH – Youth in this program are voluntary referrals to Wraparound Milwaukee. This program serves youth with SED and families diverted from

Child Welfare through FISS Unit, Initial Intake/Assessment Unit, children reunified, but need continued mental health care and support post reunification. Funded 100% by Wraparound Milwaukee & Medicaid, this program currently serves 360 families.

- Project O-YEAH (Healthy Transitions Grant) – Wraparound Milwaukee serves youth/young adults, age 17-24, with SED needs. Services include transitional care coordination, peer support specialist, housing, employment and club house (resource center). Focus is on youth aging out of foster care and the program operates with satellite programs at Lad Lake and Pathfinders. Project O-YEAH coordinates with adult community services and youth needing adult community support may start in TCM or CSP programs at age 17.

#### **VIII. Challenges**

- Coordination with the medical home for Foster Children Program for children with serious emotional and mental health needs.